U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4

SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

Jacksonville Ash Superfund Site
Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Kickoff ***May 2000***

This Fact Sheet contains:

EPA CONTACTS

Please call, e-mail or write with any comments or questions...

Joe Alfano
Remedial Project Manager
(404) 562-8933
alfano.joe@epa.gov

~

Angela Leach
Community Involvement Coordinator
(404) 562-8561
leach.angela@epa.gov

~

Eddie Wright
Environmental Justice Coordinator
(404) 562-8669
wright.eddie@epa.gov

U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Toll-free: 1-800-435-9234

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues this fact sheet to announce the start of the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being conducted at the Jacksonville Ash site. The RI/FS will be conducted under an Administrative Order on Consent between EPA and the City of Jacksonville.

This fact sheet is issued as part of EPA's public participation responsibilities under Section 117(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. Information summarized in this fact sheet can be found in greater detail in documents contained in the Administrative Record (AR). Three locations house the AR and Information Repositories for the Jacksonville Ash site:

Jacksonville Urban League
903 West Union Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32205
(904) 366-3461 Monday-Friday: 8 am to 5 pm

Emmett C. Reed Community Center
1093 West 6th Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32209
(904) 630-0958
Monday-Friday: 8 am to 5 pm, 6 pm - 9 pm
Saturday: 8 am - 5 pm

Bradham Brooks Public Library
1755 West Edgewood Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32208
(904) 765-5402
Mon-Weds: 10 am to 9 pm
Thurs-Sat: 10 am to 6 pm Sunday: 1 pm to 5 pm

Documents included in the AR and Information Repositories are available to the public for viewing and copying.

Site Description and History

The Jacksonville Ash site includes three separate locations of former waste processing and/or disposal facilities operated or used by the City of Jacksonville. EPA grouped the three locations under one site designation because they have common sources and types of waste and to ensure consistency in the approach to site investigation and cleanup. Included are two former city incinerators at Forest Street and at 5th and Cleveland Streets and a former dump site that is now occupied by Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park. All three locations are in the northwest portion of Jacksonville in Duval County, Florida (see figure 1).

Forest Street Incinerator

The former Forest Street incinerator site occupies approximately 10.5 acres in an area of mixed residential and industrial land use, approximately one mile west of Jacksonville's central business district. The City of Jacksonville operated the Forest Street municipal incinerator from the 1940s until the 1960s. Although some of the ash waste was taken to other dump sites for disposal, a considerable amount was apparently deposited at and near the incinerator location. The former incinerator area is now enclosed by a chain link fence to prevent access. The site also includes adjoining land used or potentially affected by waste handling or ash disposal activities, including the present location of the Forest Park Head Start School on the west portion of the site and a city park facility in the south portion of the site (see figure 2).

5th and Cleveland Incinerator

The City of Jacksonville operated another municipal incinerator from the 1940s to the 1960s in an area just north of the intersection of 5th and Cleveland streets, approximately one mile northwest of downtown Jacksonville. The nine acre site includes the former incinerator location and other areas reportedly used for ash disposal. Portions of the site are now occupied by the Emmett C. Reed Community Center and pool, playground and picnic areas, and city baseball diamond and basketball courts (see figure 3). Ash was disposed in several areas near the incinerator, including the present location of the park and baseball field, behind and next to the community center, and along the east side of Francis Street. Ash residue containing glass and metal fragments has been found in various areas of the site.

Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park

Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park is located northeast of the intersection of Moncrief Road and Soutel Drive, approximately five miles northwest of downtown Jacksonville. From the 1940s to the 1960s, the owners operated a dump on a portion of the land, which was formerly used for agricultural purposes. The City of Jacksonville disposed of incinerator ash waste, and other parties reportedly disposed of septic sludge and other wastes at the dump site. St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church was constructed in 1964 at the northeast corner of Moncrief and Soutel, next to the present park entrance. In the late 1980s, the City of Jacksonville purchased a large portion of the privately owned land to develop a regional park. Opened approximately six years ago, the park includes a picnic shelter, playground, and walking areas. The Ribault River borders the east side of the park, flowing northeast to the Trout River (see figure 4).

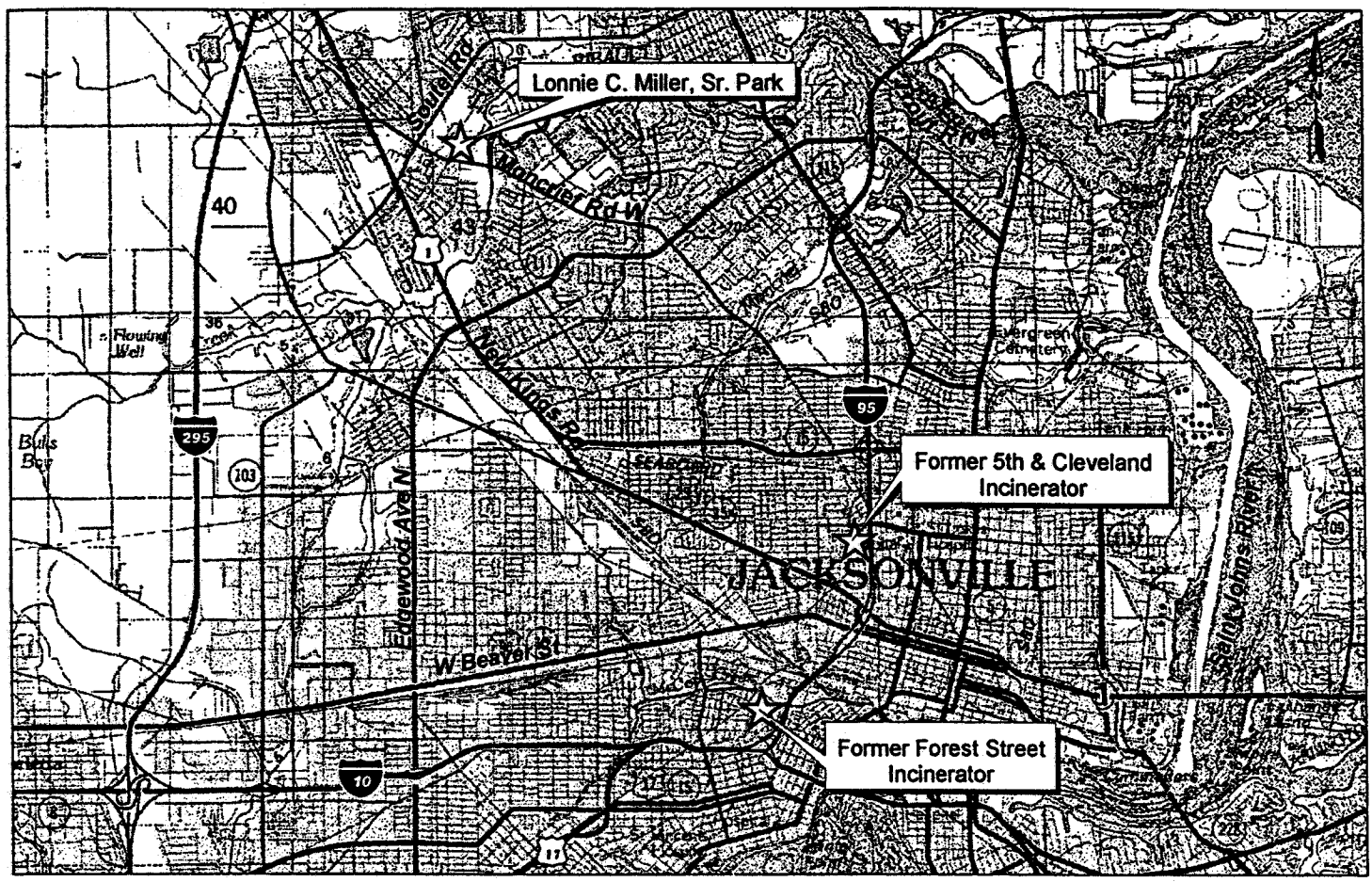

Figure 1 - Jacksonville Ash Site Locations

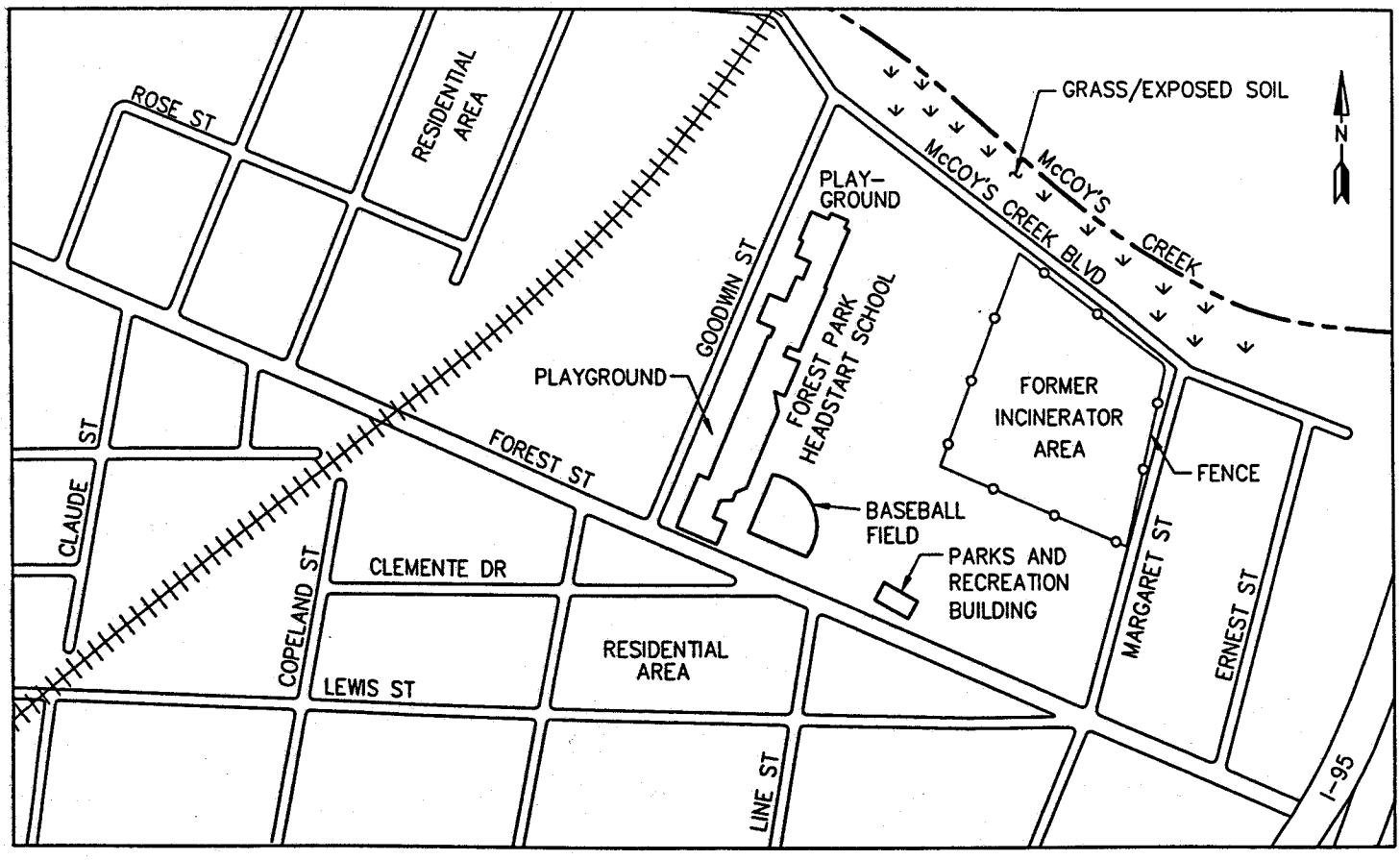

Figure 2 - Former Forest Street Incinerator Site Detail

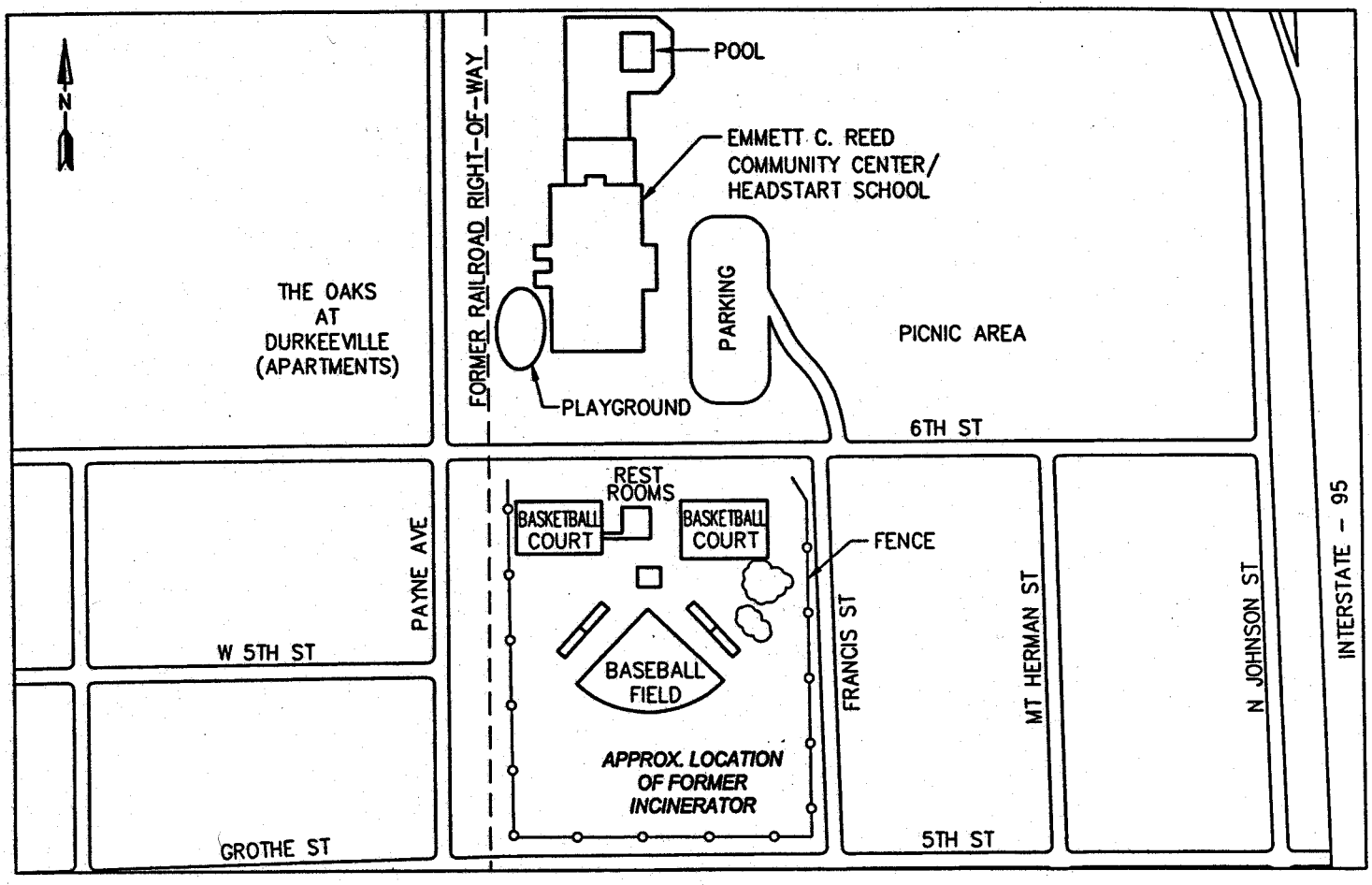

Figure 3 - Former 5th and Cleveland Incinerator Site Detail

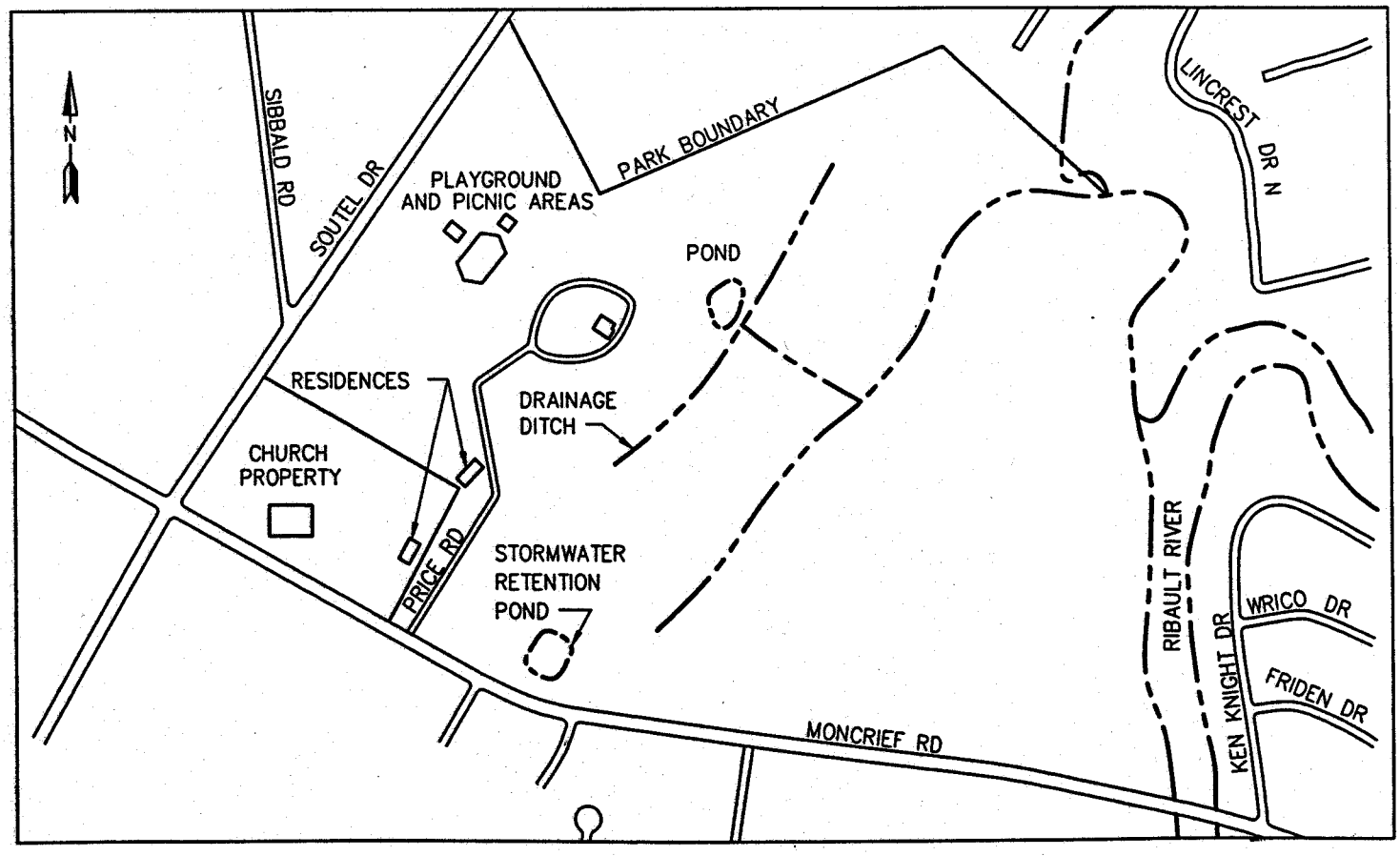

Figure 4 - Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park Site Detail

****

Previous Site Investigations

Testing conducted in the early to mid-1990s by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) identified contamination at the each of the site locations. Incinerator ash, glass and metal wastes were found in various portions of the site areas. Preliminary assessments showed that contamination at the three locations represents a potential threat to public health and the environment. Lead was detected at unacceptable levels at each of the sites. This contaminant is found mostly in soils, however groundwater contamination is also a possible concern at the three locations. Surface water in McCoy's Creek near the Forest Street site and the Ribault River next to Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park may have also been affected.

To assess current health risks at the three site locations, EPA asked the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct health consultations using available environmental data to determine if a possible health hazard to the public exists.

ATSDR concluded that lead levels present are a public health concern for areas of the 5th and Cleveland site. ATSDR recommended that affected areas be covered with sod, soil, sand, or gravel to provide temporary protection and that the extent of site contamination be characterized with further soil sampling.

ATSDR concluded that a public health hazard exists in the northeast quadrant of the Forest Street site, particularly if lead-contaminated soils are ingested over a long period of time. Additional ground cover has been placed on the Forest Park play areas, a fence surrounds the former incinerator area, and access is restricted to other parts of the site. Additional sampling was recommended to fully characterize the contamination on site.

At Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park, ATSDR concluded that the available data indicates that no apparent public health hazard exists. The health consultation further recommends additional soil sampling to better characterize the contamination.

As a result of these findings, EPA requested that the City of Jacksonville conduct detailed investigations of the three site areas under the Superfund program. The following section describes the work to be done under an EPA-enforced Remedial Investigation of the Jacksonville Ash site locations.

****

The Superfund Law

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, commonly known as the Superfund law), was passed in 1980 and amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) in 1986. CERCLA enables EPA to respond directly to releases of hazardous substances at unregulated or abandoned sites. In addition, it allows EPA to clean up these

sites or to require private parties who contributed to creating the site to do so.

Plans for the Jacksonville Ash Site Remedial Investigation (RI)

The City of Jacksonville is conducting the RI with oversight by EPA. To meet EPA goals, the City recently submitted a draft RI/FS Work Plan. After thorough review and revision by EPA's technical team, FDEP, and community members, EPA approved a final Work Plan on April 24, 2000 (available for viewing at the Information Repositories).

The RI/FS Work Plan details the sampling goals, strategies, and methods that will be followed during the Jacksonville Ash Site RI, beginning in May 2000. To determine the nature and extent of contamination in surface and subsurface soils at the site, two types of soil sampling will be performed.

Delineation Sampling

The goal of delineation sampling is to determine the extent (find the boundaries) of the site contamination. From previous site investigations and aerial photography, the extent of ash contamination has been estimated for the three site locations. During the RI, this estimate will be confirmed or modified by extensive sampling along the perimeter of the estimated ash boundaries. The objective is to bound the contamination by defining a "clean" line, and thereby delineate the extent of the Forest Street, 5th and Cleveland, and Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park sites.

Every delineation soil sample will be field-tested for lead at the site. Each soil sample that appears to be part of the "clean" line will also be sent to a laboratory and tested for all metals. In addition, 20% of the "clean" line samples will be tested for organics, pesticides and dioxins in the laboratory.

Characterization Sampling

Characterization sampling goals are (a) to characterize the contamination by identifying the types and concentrations of hazardous substances, and (b) to define the vertical extent of contamination within the confirmed site area. Each location will be sampled at different depths: at the surface (0 to 6 inches); at one-foot intervals within the ash; and one foot below the ash. The number of samples taken at each location will depend on the depth of ash; at a minimum, three samples will be taken at each location.

Every characterization soil sample will be field-tested for lead. In addition, 30% of these samples will be sent to a lab and tested for all metals and 15% will be sent to a lab and tested for organics, pesticides and dioxins.

Groundwater and Surface Water

Monitoring wells will be installed to characterize the site groundwater. Up to eight (8) wells per site will be laboratory tested for metals, all organics, and pesticides. Twenty percent will also be tested for dioxins. The remaining wells will be tested for metals, organics, and pesticides with 20% tested for volatile organics and dioxin. Information from the new wells and from wells already at the sites will be used to determine if groundwater quality is being affected by the ash.

Investigations of McCoy Creek at Forest Street, Hogg Creek at 5th & Cleveland, and the Ribault River, the drainage ditch and tributary to the Ribault River, and the fishing pond at Lonnie C. Miller, Sr.

Park will also occur during this RI. The Work Plan for this sampling effort is currently being developed. This Work Plan will include the collection and testing of surface water and sediment. The Surface Water and Sediment Work Plan will be reviewed by EPA, FDEP and members of the community before EPA approves the plan and sampling begins.

****

The Superfund Process

Site Discovery and Assessment

After a site is discovered, EPA or the State investigates the site, considering such factors as the type of contaminants and possible risks to human health and the environment from contamination. The effects on environmental media (air, groundwater, surface water, and soil), possible pathways of exposure, and effects on populations are assessed. These initial investigations can include a Preliminary Assessment (PA), a Site Inspection (SI), and an Expanded Site Investigation (ESI).

EPA identifies private parties who may be legally responsible for the contamination. Once identified, EPA offers these parties an opportunity to participate in the site investigation and cleanup. If able but unwilling, EPA can order the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to participate or pay for the site costs.

Remedial Investigation

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation (RI) is to fully determine the nature and extent of contamination from the site. RI activities typically include testing numerous samples of soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater to determine what contaminants are present and at what concentrations, and where the contamination is present. EPA monitors the findings throughout the investigation and takes emergency actions if needed.

Risk Assessment

Using results from the RI, a Human Health Risk Assessment and an Ecological Risk Assessment are conducted. The Risk Assessments evaluate potential risks to human health and the environment posed by the site contaminants. The results of these evaluations help EPA determine whether a cleanup is necessary and identify the appropriate cleanup levels for protecting human health and the environment.

Feasibility Study

Using results from the Remedial Investigation and the Risk Assessment, the Feasibility Study (FS) identifies possible cleanup alternatives for the Site. EPA applies specific criteria to evaluate each alternative:

- overall protection of human health and the environment
- compliance with applicable or relevant Federal or State environmental standards/requirements
- long-term effectiveness and permanence
- reduction of toxicity (harmfulness), mobility (potential for movement), or volume (amount) of

hazardous substances
- short-term effectiveness or immediate impact
- implementability
- cost-effectiveness
- acceptance by the State and community

Proposed Plan/Public Comment Period

After consulting with the State, EPA then proposes its preferred cleanup remedy and presents it to the public for comment. After considering public input and responding to comments, EPA selects the final remedy that will be used to reduce risks posed by the site contamination and issues it in a Record of Decision (ROD).

Remedial Design - Remedial Action - Deletion

EPA directs the engineering design for the cleanup (Remedial Design) and the cleanup work (Remedial Action) specified in the ROD. When the site has been effectively cleaned up, EPA proposes that the site be removed (site Deletion) from the Superfund process. The public is given an opportunity to comment on the proposed Deletion before EPA makes a final determination.

****

Opportunities for Community Involvement

Congress mandated that EPA provide communities affected by Superfund activities an opportunity to be involved in cleanup decision-making. EPA has developed a community involvement program to respond to citizens' concerns and to provide sufficient information for meaningful participation.

EPA has prepared a Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the Jacksonville Ash site (available for viewing at the Information Repositories) based on interviews with local leaders and private citizens. The CIP lists techniques to be used to involve the public.

Such efforts include identifying EPA telephone contacts, distributing fact sheets and meeting notifications using a site mailing list, hosting informal open houses and/or public meetings for two-way communication, placing media ads and press releases, establishing and maintaining information repositories, and developing an Administrative Record.

EPA encourages community members to get involved and provide feedback throughout the Superfund process. EPA provides public comment periods to solicit community input at major decision points and develops summaries of the comments received and EPA's responses.

In addition, the North Riverside Community Association has been selected as a representative community group for the Jacksonville Ash Site. The City of Jacksonville is providing funding for the

community group to hire a Technical Advisor to assist them in participating in the Superfund process.

On behalf of the community group, the Technical Advisor will review and prepare comments on technical documents and will help members understand the Superfund activities and results. EPA has designated the Technical Advisor as a member of its technical Peer Review team for documents submitted to EPA by the City of Jacksonville pertaining to the Jacksonville Ash site.

For more information about the Jacksonville Ash Community Group and the Technical Advisor, please contact Diane Kerr, Chairperson and President of the North Riverside Community Association.

Mailing List Additions

EPA has developed a mailing list for the Jacksonville Ash site. Meeting notices and fact sheets will be mailed out as they are released. If you would like to be added to EPA's list for future mailings, please contact:

Angela Leach
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Toll-free: 1-800-435-9234
Direct: 404-562-8561
E-mail: leach.angela@epa.gov